

Mismatched numbers may mean money

By Roger Boye

Today's column answers more questions from Chicago Tribune readers.

Q—We have a \$1 bill, series 1985, with serial numbers that don't match. How much might it be worth?

C.M., Chicago

A—The bill's retail value will depend on condition and other factors. According to catalogues, prices might range from \$20 for a note showing much wear with one mismatched digit to at least \$150 for an uncirculated specimen with three digits that don't

jibe. Even more valuable are "new condition" bills with mismatched prefix or suffix letters.

Q—We want to invest in rare coins. Please send us a list of honest dealers. Also, what should we look for when selecting a dealer?

B.O., Western Springs

A—Sorry, but I don't recommend the names of specific coin shops. You should patronize well-established dealers who are members of the Professional Numismatists Guild or other hobby organizations that promote business ethics. Such per-

sons normally shun high-pressure sales tactics and offer reasonable return privileges.

Also, learn about rare coins and how to grade them by buying the basic reference books and subscribing to coin periodicals. Then you won't have to rely entirely on a stranger's opinion.

Questions about coins or paper money? Send your queries to Roger Boye, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a personal reply. Also, please do not send coins; instead, write a description of them.